AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1. (Currently Amended) A nipple for use with a baby bottle, the nipple comprising:

an outer member with an annular securing flange and a flexible central membrane portion extending from the securing flange to define an aperture at a nursing end thereof, the central membrane portion comprising an inner surface and a flexible flap extending inwardly from the inner surface; and

an inner member having a flexible inner membrane positioned at least partially within the central membrane portion of the outer member, the inner member defining a valve passage therethrough arranged to be selectively obstructed by the flap;

wherein the outer member and the inner member define therebetween a holding chamber having the valve passage as an inlet and the aperture as an outlet, the holding chamber comprising a first section ~~that receives the fluid when the outer member is released~~ in hydraulic communication with the inlet, and a second section in hydraulic communication with the ~~aperture,~~ outlet, a compromisable seal being disposed between the first section and the second section to ~~effectively~~ isolate the first section of the holding chamber from the ~~aperture~~ outlet when the ~~outer member is released, the compromisable seal formed between the outer member and an outwardly facing surface of the inner member;~~ central membrane portion is not deformed, and

wherein the flap ~~is positioned on a side of the valve passage nearest the holding chamber to inhibit~~ inhibits flow from the holding chamber through the valve passage when the central membrane portion ~~of the outer member~~ is compressed to collapse the holding chamber, and ~~to deflect away from the valve passage to allow the holding chamber to receive a fluid~~ allows flow into the holding chamber through the valve passage when the outer membrane is released.

2. (Original) The nipple of claim 1 wherein the flap defines a hole therethrough, the flap being manually positionable to align the hole with the valve passage to establish a hydraulic communication path into the holding chamber.

3. (Original) The nipple of claim 2 wherein the membrane portion of the outer member has an exposed surface with a delineated region adjacent the flap, the delineated region of the outer member being manipulable to move the flap to align the hole with the valve passage.

4. (Previously presented) The nipple of claim 1 wherein the compromisable seal prevents passage of fluid therebetween when the central membrane portion of the outer member is in a relaxed position, and allows passage of fluid therebetween when the central membrane portion of the outer member is compressed to collapse the holding chamber.

5. (Previously presented) The nipple of claim 1 wherein the compromisable seal is defined by an annular portion of the central membrane portion of the outer member that contacts an annular portion of the inner membrane of the inner member.

6. (Previously presented) The nipple of claim 1 wherein the aperture provides a hydraulic communication path for passing fluid out of the holding chamber when the central membrane portion of the outer member is compressed.

7. (Previously presented) The nipple of claim 1 wherein the aperture comprises a slit in the central membrane portion of the outer member that opens to allow passage of fluid when the outer membrane is compressed and closes to prevent passage of fluid when the outer membrane is in a relaxed position.

8. (Original) The nipple of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of valve passages and a plurality of corresponding flaps, wherein each valve passage is selectively obstructed by a corresponding flap.

9. (Currently amended) The nipple of claim 8 wherein two of the flaps, positioned opposite each other, define priming holes therethrough and are manipulable to align ~~their~~ the priming holes with respective valve passages to establish a hydraulic communication path into the holding chamber.

10. (Original) The nipple of claim 1 wherein the inner member comprises a rigid base ring from which the flexible membrane of the inner member extends.

11. (Original) The nipple of claim 10 wherein the membrane of the inner member is formed of a flexible material that extends across a lower surface of the base ring to form a gasket seal for engaging an upper rim of a bottle.

12. (Currently amended) The nipple of ~~either of claims~~ claim 10 wherein the base ring defines recesses arranged to receive alignment features of the outer member, to rotationally align the inner and outer members.

13. (Withdrawn) The nipple of claim 1 wherein the outer and inner members are integrally formed.

14. (Original) The nipple of claim 1 wherein the membrane of the inner member is removable from within the outer member.

15. (Original) The nipple of claim 1 wherein the inner and outer members have corresponding rotational alignment features that inhibit inserting the inner member into the outer member except with the inner and outer members in operative relative alignment.

16. (Original) The nipple of claim 1 wherein the membrane of the inner member defines an orifice sized to pass a small amount of fluid therethrough when suction is applied to the aperture.

17. (Currently amended) A bottle for feeding a baby, the bottle comprising:

a container for holding a fluid and including an open ~~end for passage of the fluid;~~ end;

~~a nipple according to claim 1; and~~ a nipple having:

an outer member with an annular securing flange and a flexible central membrane portion extending from the securing flange to define an aperture at a nursing end thereof, the central membrane portion comprising an inner surface and a flexible flap extending inwardly from the inner surface; and

an inner member having a flexible inner membrane positioned at least partially within the central membrane portion of the outer member, the inner member defining a valve passage therethrough arranged to be selectively obstructed by the flap, the outer member and the inner member defining therebetween a holding chamber having the valve passage as an inlet and the aperture as an outlet, the holding chamber comprising a first section in hydraulic communication with the inlet, and a second section in hydraulic communication with the outlet, a compromisable seal being disposed between the first section and the second section to isolate the first section of the holding chamber from the outlet when the central membrane portion is not deformed, the flap inhibiting flow from the holding chamber through the valve passage when the central membrane portion is compressed to collapse the holding chamber, and allowing flow into the holding chamber through the valve passage when the outer membrane is released; and

a securing device positioned to mate with the securing flange of the outer member to secure the nipple to the open end of the container.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of delivering fluid to a baby, the method comprising:

providing a nipple having an outer member and an inner member, the outer member having an annular securing flange and a flexible central membrane portion extending from the securing flange to define an aperture at a nursing end thereof, the central membrane portion comprising an inner surface and a flexible flap extending inwardly from the inner surface, the inner member having a flexible inner membrane positioned at least partially within the central membrane portion of the outer member, the inner member defining a valve passage therethrough arranged to be selectively obstructed by the flap; wherein the outer member and the inner member define therebetween a holding chamber having the valve passage as an inlet and the aperture as an outlet, the holding chamber comprising a first section ~~that receives the fluid when the outer member is released,~~ in hydraulic communication with the inlet, and a second section in hydraulic communication with the ~~aperture,~~ outlet, a compromisable seal being disposed between the first section and the second section to ~~effectively~~ isolate the first section of the holding chamber from the ~~aperture~~ outlet when the ~~outer member is released,~~ central membrane portion is not deformed, the flap ~~being positioned on a side of the valve passage nearest the holding chamber to inhibit~~ inhibiting flow from the holding chamber through the valve passage when the central membrane portion ~~of the outer membrane~~ is compressed to collapse the holding chamber, and ~~to deflect away from the valve passage to allow the holding chamber to receive a fluid~~ allowing flow into the holding chamber through the valve passage when the outer membrane is released;

securing the nipple to an open end of a container holding a fluid; and ~~then~~

positioning the aperture of the nipple inside a baby's mouth, thereby enabling the baby's mouth to:

apply a compressive force to the central membrane portion of the outer member ~~at the compromisable seal~~ to compromise the compromisable seal and collapse the central membrane ~~portion of the outer member to force~~ portion, thereby forcing fluid from the holding chamber and through the aperture; and ~~then~~

release the central membrane portion of the outer member, thereby enabling the holding chamber to receive more fluid from the container through the valve passage.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18 further ~~comprising, prior to positioning the aperture of the nipple inside a baby's mouth, manually~~ comprising manually priming the nipple.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein priming the nipple comprises:

positioning the container so that the fluid is in contact with the nipple; and

manually manipulating a delineated region on an outer surface of the outer member to move the flap to align a hole in the flap with the valve passage.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein manipulating the delineated region comprises manually compressing the delineated region.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein priming the nipple further comprises allowing fluid to flow from the container, through the valve passage, through the hole in the flap and into the holding chamber while the hole remains aligned with the valve passage.

23. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein securing the nipple comprises aligning rotational alignment features of the inner and outer members to place the inner and outer members in operative relative alignment.

24. (Currently amended) A method of priming a nipple for a baby bottle, the method comprising:

providing a nipple having an outer member and an inner member, the outer member having an annular securing flange and a flexible central membrane portion extending from the securing flange to define an aperture at a nursing end thereof, the central membrane portion including an inner surface, a flexible flap extending inwardly from the inner surface and defining a hole, and an outer surface having a delineated region adjacent the flap, the inner member having a flexible inner membrane positioned at least partially within the central membrane portion, the inner member defining a valve passage therethrough arranged to be selectively obstructed by the flap, the outer and inner members defining therebetween a holding chamber having the valve passage as an inlet and the aperture as an outlet, the flap and the valve passage cooperating to define a one-way valve for flow into the holding chamber;

securing the a nipple to an open end of a container holding a fluid;

orienting the ~~bottle~~ container so that the fluid is in contact with the nipple; and

applying a compressive force to the delineated region ~~of the outer member~~ to deform the outer member in such a manner that the hole of the flap aligns with the valve passage of the inner member.